



George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
Clinch Ranger District
9416 Coeburn Mountain Road
Wise, VA 24293
(276) 328-2931

June 7, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND OPENING OF NEW HIGH KNOB TRAIL

The USDA – Forest Service, Clinch Ranger District is hosting a Grand Opening ceremony for High Knob Trail on June 9, 2012. All are welcome to gather at 11:00 a.m. at the High Knob Trailhead located off of state Route 619 past the High Knob Tower site in Wise County. After the ceremony, representatives from trail clubs will host trail rides and hikes. The 33-mile trail took over four years to construct. The trail travels through Wise and Scott counties and is open to horse-back riders, bicyclists and hikers.

Many partners contributed time, funding, and support to construct this trail:

- Scott County Regional Horse Association
- The Clinch Coalition
- The Lonesome Pine Bicycle Club
- Wise and Scott County Board of Supervisors
- Wise County Chamber of Commerce
- Flatwood Job Corp Center
- City of Norton
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Numerous local individuals

Funding to construct the High Knob Trail came from Federal Highway Administration and Commonwealth of Virginia grants and contributions from Virginia Department of Transportation and the USDA Forest Service.

The High Knob Trail is an addition to the recreation opportunities in Wise and Scott counties we refer to as the “String of Pearls,” which also includes the future High Knob Observation Tower, Flag Rock Recreation Area, High Knob Recreation Area, Bark Camp Recreation Area and many other attractions in the area.

For more information please contact the Clinch Ranger District office (276) 328-2931.

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USDA Forest Service

George Washington & Jefferson National Forests

Briefing Paper

Date: 6/2012

Topic: The High Knob Trail has been completed and a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony is planned for June 9, 2012.

Background:

An increased interest in horseback riding in southwest Virginia led to the identification of a need to develop a multi-use trail with an emphasis on increasing horseback riding opportunities on National Forests in the Wise, Scott, Lee and Dickinson County area. This four year project was started in 2009 and was given substantial resources to be completed when a Funding Transfer Agreement between the Virginia Department of Transportation and the United States Forest Service was signed on October 17, 2010, effective through September 30, 2011. Funding for the project to construct the High Knob Horse Trail and Associated Facilities was developed through a grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and a 20% match by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

The 33 mile trail was completed in June, 2012, and representatives of three user groups put the finishing touches on blazing the trail.

A grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for June 9, 2012 as the official opening of the trail to the public.

It took many hours of planning, labor, and negotiating to develop them. This ceremony is a cooperative effort in recognition of the following organizations that helped promote a new recreation opportunity in the area:

The USDA-Forest Service,
Wise and Scott County
The Wise County Chamber of Commerce
The City of Norton
The Scott County Regional Horse Association
The Clinch Coalition
The Lonesome Pine Cycling Club
Spearhead Trailblazers,
Flatwood Job Corp Center
And others

Trail rides or hikes are scheduled after the ceremony.

Contact: Jorge J. Hersel, District Ranger, (276) 328-2931
-USFS-



High Knob Trail



Clinch Ranger District

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DIRECTIONS

IMPORTANT INFO

PROOF OF NEGATIVE COGGINS TEST REQUIRED

(2VAC5-70-20. Testing requirements for horses exhibited at shows, fairs, or other exhibitions, or coming into contact with horses owned by others in Virginia.)



Parking



Open Dates
Open Year Round

The High Knob Trail goes for over 30 miles along Forest Service and state roads, and trails created especially for horses. These trails are also open to other non-motorized uses.

The parking lots are designed to accommodate horse-trailers.

The High Knob Trailhead is on the western end of the High Knob Trail, and is near High Knob, the highest point on the Clinch Ranger District. At over 4,200 feet in elevation, you can see five states from there on a clear day.

The Little Stony Trailhead is at the eastern end of the High Knob Trail. From there, you'll be riding west along Forest Service Road 701 and FSR 700 out to Osborne Ridge and the other stretches of the High Knob Trail.

McGhee Creek (Road) Trailhead, on the southern side of the trail system, is actually near Staunton Creek. The High Knob Trail goes uphill from there, along Forest Service Road 776.

HIGH KNOB (#120) TRAIL SECTION LENGTHS

High Knob Section(120a)

	Mileage
High Knob Trailhead to gate at State Route 619	0.30
Trail through forest from gate on SR 619, to gas well road	1.05
Along gas well road to gate	0.32
SR 619 to Forest Service 619	0.54
Along FS 619	3.61
FS 2648 to FS 237	1.69
FS 237 to FS 2641/High Knob Trailhead	2.94

Little Stony Section(120b)

FS 704 from SR 619 to FS 2570	5.60
Chief Benges Scout Trail (FS #401) from FS 2570 to SR 706	0.86
SR 706 to SR 822	3.80
SR 822 to FS 700	1.67
FS 700 to FS 701	4.16
FS 701 to Little Stony Trailhead	0.81

McGhee Creek Section (120c)

SR 706 and FS 776 from the SR 706/SR 822 intersection to the McGhee Creek Trailhead	5.86
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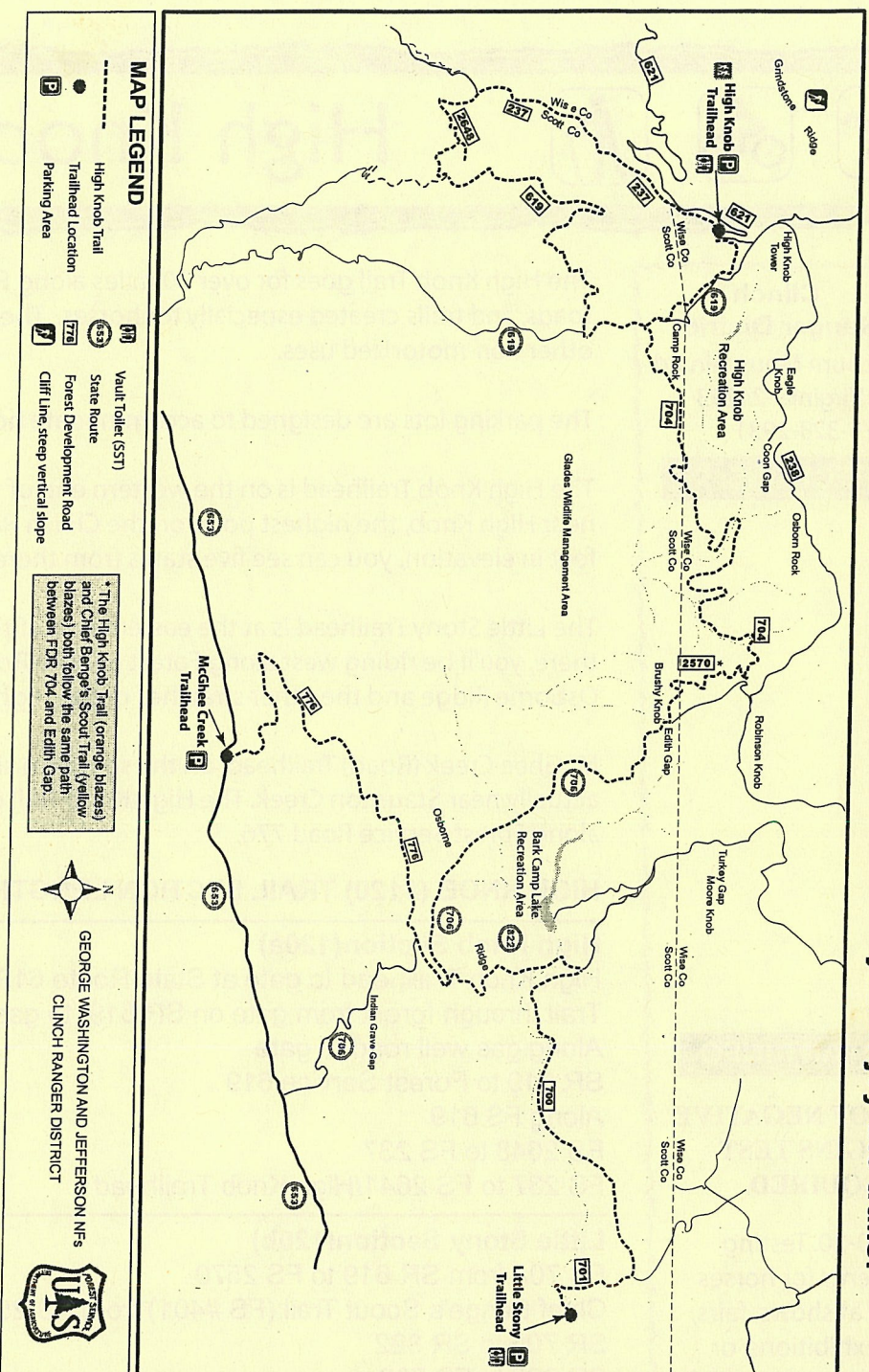
TOTAL MILES IN HIGH KNOB TRAIL 33.21



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southern Region
Jefferson National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/clinch

Welcome to the High Knob Trail

This trail is open to horse-riding, hiking, and non-motorized biking.
Please practice "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics as you enjoy the trails.



PLEASE NOTE: The Clinch Ranger District has no developed horse camping sites.

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Leave No Trace

Stay on the trail.
Pack out all your trash.
Bury human waste and toilet paper using the "cathole" method at least 200 ft. from a creek.
Protect riparian areas. Camp at least 200 ft. from lakes and streams.
Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
Respect wildlife and plants.
Preserve you heritage. Leave what you find.

Horse Riders:

Prevent the spread of noxious weeds. Bring only weed free seeds. Remove weeds/burrs from animals, tack, trailers and trucks.
Use a nosebag or manger to feed your horse.
Water your horse at designated places only.